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DATA ON AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVES IN RUMANIA

Socialized agriculture takes in 16 percent of the total arable land in Rumania. In 1952, there were 1,650 collectives and more than 1,700 TOZ.(1)

From a few hundred poor and middle peasants in summer 1949, the number of families who entered collectives by 1952 reached more than 100,000.(2)

In 1951, the members of the Poiana Mare collective, Craiova Regiune, had a harvest of 1,600 kilograms of wheat per hectare. The family of collectivist Ioan Berceanu received as income 2,581 kilograms of wheat, 4,590 kilograms of corn, 378 kilograms of barley, 371 kilograms of potatoes, 143 kilograms of sunflower, and more than 400 kilograms of various other products. They also received 18 kilograms of cotton thread, 162 meters of cloth, 13,500 kilograms of sugar, and 13,500 kilograms of caustic soda.(3)

Increasing numbers of poor and middle peasants are uniting to work their land with machinery provided by the state. In the period between September 1951 and September 1952, more than 42,000 families of the poor and middle peasantry united in 1,112 agricultural collectives (TOZ) to work over 90,000 hectares of land in common, with the aid of MTS.(4)

With constant aid from the state and with modern equipment, the collectives obtain increasingly better harvests. In summer 1952, the collectives achieved a better yield than the individual holdings. The Dochia collective in Bacau Raion harvested 1,800 kilograms of wheat per hectare, or double the amount which individual holdings could produce. The peasants of Ruja, Stalin Raion, harvested 2,200 kilograms of wheat per hectare, as compared with 1,400 kilograms harvested on individual holdings.(4) The collective farm of Belobresca in Severin Raion harvested 3,150 kilograms of wheat per hectare, while individual holdings harvested only 1,000 kilograms.

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Many collectives have libraries, radios, moving picture equipment, summer kindergartens, clubs, culture homes, and other educational facilities.(2)

As a result of improved harvests obtained on collectives and TOZ, the number of peasants seeking to join has increased. Gheorghe Oanea, head of the Schela collective, pointed out the benefits that he and his fellow collectivists had obtained since they organized their farm in 1950. In 1952, they obtained 2,650 kilograms of wheat per hectare, as compared to 1,100 kilograms per hectare obtained by individual farmers. Oanea stated that a modern school and a culture home were built in the village. He concluded by saying that members of the collective had achieved more in the past 2 years than in any previous 10 years.(5)

A collective formed by 13 families in Vizureni, Crivesti Commune, in 1951 was aided by machines and implements from the Crivesti MTS. As a result, the harvest obtained in 1952 surpassed any obtained previously in that part of the country. The harvest of the collective was as follows: 2,000 kilograms of corn per hectare, or 1,000 kilograms more than obtained by the rest of the village; 3,000 kilograms of peas per hectare, as compared with half that amount produced by individual peasants; 1,000 kilograms of sunflowers more per hectare than individual peasants. The same was true of other crops raised by the collective.(6) Shortly after this harvest, many peasants filed requests to join the collective. As a result, 37 families joined between 1 and 15 September 1952. The agitation activities of these peasants in turn caused more than 100 families in Dragalina Commune to form a TOZ. Other peasants followed suit in nearby Ciortolom.(6)

More than 100,000 peasants throughout Rumania united to form TOZ with outstanding results. In Corcova, Craiova Regiune, for example, peasants on TOZ obtained 700 kilograms /crop not indicated/ more per hectare than individual peasants.(3) One hundred families in Stonesti Commune, Caracal Raion, formed the Unirea collective with excellent results.(7) Mircea T. Gheorghe induced 36 peasants with 38 hectares to form a collective in Optasi, Slatina Raion. Despite drought in 1952, fodder crops yielded 1,600 kilograms per hectare, or twice the 1951 quantity. Other peasants joined in fall 1952 and brought the membership up to 52, with an area of 100 hectares. They planted 40 hectares of wheat.(8)

The German peasants are also forming collectives. By July 1951, a total of 1,197 German peasant families became members of collectives. After the distribution of the crops, a new influx of members began. In December 1951, there were 1,800 German members of collectives; in spring 1952, nearly 3,000; and by the end of July 1952, 4,641. There are German collectives in Aisen and Gross-Schenk, Sibiu Raion, and in Engelsbrunn, Arad Raion.(2)

SOURCES

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2. Vienna, Nachrichten aus der Rumanischen Volksrepublik, 1 Aug 52
3. Scanteia, 21 Nov 52
4. Nachrichten aus der Rumanischen Volksrepublik, 19 Sep 52
5. Scanteia, 22 Nov 52
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8. Bucharest, Viata Sindicala, 23 Nov 52

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